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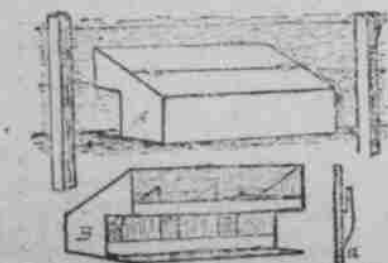


### STARTING A POULTRY PLANT

First Consideration is Suitable Location—Dry Porous Soil of Gravelly Nature is Best.

The first consideration in establishing a poultry farm is a suitable location. An elevation having natural drainage away from the area where the building is to be placed should be sought, as the ground, no matter of what nature, will be cold and unhealthy if damp. If the proposed site does not afford drainage naturally it should be provided in the form of a thorough system of under-drainage. A dry, porous soil of gravelly or gravelly nature is much more satisfactory than an impervious clay soil, as that of the more open nature is more easily kept in a clean and sanitary condition. A gentle slope facing the south or southeast is preferable in order that the fowls may receive as much sunlight as possible during the short days of winter. Choose any very desirable locations for poultry runs on account of the shade which the trees afford during the hot summer days, and in return for the shade thus provided the poultry will prove a valuable ally to the orchardist in combating many injurious insects.

There are a few things which should be observed in the construction of all houses and if observed the fowls should keep healthy and thrifty. A house which will not permit of a full circulation of fresh air should



a). Nests with hinged cover for removal of eggs. b). Inside view of nests.

not be built, as it is likely to become damp and stuffy. Care should be observed to prevent drafts as they are as fatal to good results as dampness. If the house is already constructed and it proves damp, filling the loft (if it has one) with dry, clean straw will materially improve it.

When dropping boards are used they should be low to permit of easy cleaning. They should be made of matched lumber and be twenty inches wide for one perch and three feet wide for two perches. The first perch placed at least ten inches from the wall. A good roost may be made from material 2x2 inches then slightly rounded on the edge.

Mr. Julian E. Convey, a New Hampshire man, thus describes a house for chicks, which he has found to be very satisfactory.

My chick house is 4x3 feet, 4 feet high in front and 2 1/2 at the back, with floor. It has corner stones under it. The sloping raceway (B) is convenient when chicks pass in and out. I steeper raise bottom board (C) and fasten up to let chicks all out at once. (D, D) is stationary front. To feed chicks the wire netting (E, E) is made to take down from one end. The ten boards (F) are hinged (G, G) to be open or shut as I choose.

When chicks are small I use two bath partitions, giving three apartments with one hen and brood in



Mr. Convey's Chick House.

each. These partitions I removed after taking hens from chicks and put in roost. I put two 2x4 frames at bottom to keep hen in when board (C) was up. I like this style of house. It is easy to clean by simply hoeing out at the bottom and putting in fresh sawdust.

### SELECTING GOOD EGG LAYERS

Work, While Interesting and Important, is Unavoidably Slow—Trap Nest Demands Much Time.

The work of selecting and breeding from good egg-laying strains of fowls is most interesting and important. The work of developing prolific egg-laying strains of fowls is unavoidably slow and is rendered still more difficult where a large number of fowls are kept. A busy farmer is not likely to have time to attend to any more than a limited number of hens by the trap-nest method and it is doubtful if it will ever become popular with him. Although mechanically correct in securing results, it is a system demanding unflinching attention, for at least the forepart of the day, and entailing the keeping of correct records of both male and female lineage. It is most important that the male birds used as breeders should come from a prolific egg-laying strain of females.

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